



**BJA**  
Bureau of  
Justice Assistance

# CAT

## Communities Against Terrorism

**FBI**  
Federal Bureau  
of Investigation



**POTENTIAL  
INDICATORS**  
of Terrorist Activities related to

## Internet Cafés

*What should I consider suspicious?*

*What should I do?*

### SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES

### BE PART OF THE SOLUTION.

- Overly concerned about privacy, attempts to shield the screen from view of others.
- Always pay cash or use credit card(s) in different name(s).
- Apparently use *tradecraft*: lookout, blocker or someone to distract employees.
- Act nervous or suspicious behavior inconsistent with activities.
- Observed switching SIM cards in cell phone or use of multiple cell phones.
- Travel illogical distance to use Internet café.
- Activities on computer indicate:
  - Evidence of a residential-based Internet provider (signs on to Comcast, AOL, etc.).
  - Use of anonymizers, portals, or other means to shield IP address.
  - Suspicious or coded writings, use of code word sheets, cryptic ledgers, etc.
  - Encryption or use of software to hide encrypted data in digital photos, etc.
  - Suspicious communications using VOIP or communicating through a PC game.
- Use computer to:
  - Download content of extreme/radical nature with violent themes.
  - Gather information about vulnerable infrastructure or obtain photos, maps or diagrams of transportation, sporting venues, or populated locations.
  - Purchase chemicals, acids, hydrogen peroxide, acetone, fertilizer, etc.
  - Download or transfer files with "how-to" content such as:
    - Content of extreme/radical nature with violent themes.
    - *Anarchist Cookbook*, explosives or weapons information.
    - Military tactics, equipment manuals, chemical or biological information.
    - Terrorist/revolutionary literature.
- Preoccupation with
  - Press coverage of terrorist attacks.
  - Defensive tactics, police or government information.
  - Information about timers, electronics, or remote transmitters/receivers.

- Gather information about individuals without drawing attention to yourself.
- Identify license plates, vehicle description, names used, languages spoken, ethnicity, etc.
- Do not collect metadata, content, or search electronic communications of individuals.
- Do not do additional logging of on-line activity or monitor communications.
- If something seems wrong, notify law enforcement authorities.

### DO NOT JEOPARDIZE YOUR SAFETY OR THE SAFETY OF OTHERS.

Preventing terrorism is a community effort. By learning what to look for, you can make a positive contribution in the fight against terrorism. The partnership between the community and law enforcement is *essential* to the success of anti-terrorism efforts.

Some of the activities, taken individually, could be innocent and must be examined by law enforcement professionals in a larger context to determine whether there is a basis to investigate. The activities outlined on this handout are by no means all-inclusive but have been compiled from a review of terrorist events over several years.

To report suspicious activity, please call  
1-877-OHS-INTEL (877-647-4683) or by logging onto  
[HTTP://HOMELANDSECURITY.OHIO.GOV](http://HOMELANDSECURITY.OHIO.GOV).  
In the event of an emergency, please dial 911.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT JUST BECAUSE A PERSON'S SPEECH, ACTIONS, BELIEFS, APPEARANCE, OR WAY OF LIFE IS **DIFFERENT**; IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT PERSON IS **SUSPICIOUS**.



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Some of the indicators listed above are, by themselves, lawful conduct or behavior and may also constitute the exercise of rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. In addition, there may be a wholly innocent explanation for conduct or behavior that appears suspicious in nature. For this reason, the totality of behavioral indicators and other relevant circumstances should be evaluated when considering any law enforcement response or action.